

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INSE-00 SCA-01 L-03 SIL-01 LAB-04

EB-07 COME-00 VO-03 AID-05 NSC-05 PRS-01 PA-01 USIE-00

DODE-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 AGR-05 TRSE-00 /062 W

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O 222130Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6328

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MX US

SUBJECT: UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS: INS AIR REPATRIATION

REF MEXICO 9302

1. APPRECIATE EFFORTS NOW BEING MADE BY INS AND DEPT TO CONFORM TO GOM REQUESTS FOR COORDINATION ON REPATRIATION FLIGHTS TO INTERIOR OF MEXICO, SPECIFICALLY DOCUMENTATION, FLIGHT NUMBERS, DESTINATIONS, AND NUMBERS OF PERSONS INVOLVED. ALTHOUGH PRESENT NOTIFICATION ARRANGMENTS ARE CUMBERSOME, WE ARE ENSURING THAT FONSEC IS ADVISED OF EACH FLIGHT UPON OUR OWN RECEIPT OR WORD FROM INS.

2. HOWEVER, NEW HITCH HAS ARISEN WHICH, IN PUBLIC RELATIONS TERMS, HAS ALL BUT NULLIFIED THE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF OUR EFFORTS AT COORDINATION. LOCAL NEWS MEDIA, PERHAPS UNDERSTANDABLY, ARE NOW CONFUSING THIS PROGRAM WITH "VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE" FLIGHTS WHICH HAVE GONE ON FOR SOMETIME BETWEEN TIJUANA AND LEON, GUANAJUATO. LATTER FLIGHTS, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND ARE CHARTERED BY INS WITH MEXICAN FIRM, OCCUR EVERY TWO OR THREE DAYS, AND CARRY MUCH LARGER VOLUME OF REPATRIATED ALIENS, ARE BEING DESCRIBED IN PRESS AND ON RADIO AS INTEGRAL PART OF CURRENT EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM. HOWEVER,
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PRESS IS MAKING MUCH OF ARRIVING ALIENS' COMPLAINTS THAT

THEY ARE BEING SEPARATED FROM FAMILIES IN U.S., THAT INS
IS TAKING AWAY THEIR REMAINING FUNDS"TO PAY TAXES",
AND THAT THEY ARE BEING DUMPED IN A PLACE FAR FROM THEIR
HOME TOWNS. MOREOVER, FONSEC OFFICIALS, WHO ARE NOT
INITIMATELY FAMILIAR WITH THIS LONG-STANDING INFORMAL PROGRAM,
ARE DISMAYED AT NOT RECEIVING NOTIFICATION FROM US
REGARDING FLIGHTS TO LEON (AN AREA, INCIDENTALLY
HARD HIT BY FLOOD).

3. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES AND IS ATTEMPTING TO MAKE
CLEAR TO GOM DISTINCTION BETWEEN OLDER VOLUNTARY
DEPARTURE PROGRAM AND CURRENT AIR REPATRIATION
EXPERIMENT, BUT IT'S AN UPHILL BATTLE. IT OCCURS TO US
THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE SOMEHOW TO FOLD TIJUANA-LEON
FLIGHTS INTO EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM AND INCLUDE THOSE PAS-
SENGERS IN DOCUMENTATION-NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES LATELY
ADOPTED. DOING SO WOULD CERTAINLY HELP DEFUSE MEDIA
AND POLITICAL CONFUSION BETWEEN THESE TWO PROGRAMS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE URGENTLY
WHETHER POSSIBILITY EXISTS OF EITHER (A) DOVETAILING
THESE PROGRAMS OR (B) SUSPENDING TIJUANA-LEON AIR
FOR DURATION OF EXPERIMENT.
JOVA

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